

Application No: 10/666,790

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1.-54. (canceled)

55. (currently amended) An electric storage battery comprising:

an ~~electrically conductive~~ case hermetically sealed by a first end cap and a second end cap caps, wherein said case excludes ~~has no separate~~ fill holes and wherein the said first end cap excludes ~~fill holes~~ and the second end cap excludes ~~caps have no separate~~ fill holes;

an electrically conductive terminal pin extending through said first end cap and electrically insulated from said case;

an electrode assembly disposed within said case, the electrode assembly includes an electrode in electrical communication with the pin and an electrode electrically insulated from the pin and comprising first and second opposite polarity electrodes separated by separators wherein said first electrode is electrically coupled to said pin; and

a flexible conductive tab providing electrical communication between the electrically coupled to said second electrode and to said second end cap and the electrode that is electrically insulated from the pin.

56.-65. (canceled)

66. (new) The battery of claim 55, wherein the tab extends from a first location adjacent to the case past a center point of the second end cap to a second location where the tab is electrically connected to the second end cap.

67. (new) The battery of claim 66, wherein a weld connects a flat portion of the tab to an inner face of the second end cap.

68. (new) The battery of claim 66, wherein the tab is not connected to the second end cap continuously over a distance extending from the first location to the second location.

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69. (new) The battery of claim 66, wherein the portion of the second end cap adjacent to the tab has a radius and the tab is positioned adjacent to the second end cap without being connected to the second end cap for a distance that is longer than the radius.

70. (new) The battery of claim 55, wherein the electrodes are electrode strips wound around the pin so as to form a spiral role on the pin.

71. (new) The battery of claim 70, wherein the spiral role includes at least one separator separating the electrodes.

72. (new) The battery of claim 70, wherein the electrode assembly includes a mandrel mounted on the pin such that the electrodes are wound around the pin and the mandrel.

73. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel includes a longitudinal slot; and wherein

the electrode in electrical communication with the pin extends through the mandrel slot.

74. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel has a channel through which electrolyte can be injected.

75. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein a portion of the electrode in electrical communication with the pin is positioned between the mandrel and the pin.

76. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein the electrode in electrical communication with the pin includes active material positioned on a substrate, the substrate being positioned between the mandrel and the pin without the active material being positioned between the mandrel and the pin.

77. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel is crimped to the pin.

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78. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein a weld attaches the mandrel to the pin.
79. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel includes titanium or an alloy of titanium.
80. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel includes a tube.
81. (new) The battery of claim 80, wherein the pin is positioned in an interior of the tube.
82. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel has a c-shaped cross-section.
83. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel is fitted around the pin such that the electrodes are wound around the pin and the mandrel.
84. (new) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel is a reinforcing mandrel.
85. (new) The battery of claim 55, wherein at least one weld directly connects the electrode that is in electrical communication with the pin to the pin.
86. (new) The battery of claim 55, wherein the pin includes an alloy of PtIr.
87. (new) The battery of claim 55, wherein the first end cap includes
an electrical insulator,
the pin extends through the electrical insulator, and
the pin is hermetically sealed to the electrical insulator.
88. (new) The battery of claim 55, wherein the case is electrically conducting.